



Case Docket No. _____

THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

A "Clean" Copy of the amended claims follows:

Application No. 10/020,739
Examiner: Douglas Watts
Art Unit 3724
Inventor: Michael Miller

For: IMPROVED UNIVERSAL FORK

Clean Copy of Claims

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TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

1. (once modified)

An improved universal fork comprising:

- a. a handle shaft, having a back end that enlarges in diameter and circumference along its length toward the back end, where said handle shaft also has a front end that is joined on its front portion to a fork head;
- b. a fork head having inner and outer tines, where said outer tines define curved outer edges;
- c. a finger platform, on each side of the handle, comprising a deformation of the handle shaft at the point along the length of the handle on the central handle shaft, where said finger platform defines an enlarged flat side surface against which a person's

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forefinger is able to press against.

2. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the sides of the handle and finger platform flat areas are symmetrical to each other.
3. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the fork head
5 comprises outer tines that form sides of the fork head which are symmetrical to each other.
4. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the sides of the handle and finger sides are symmetrical to each other.
5. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the improved
10 universal fork is constructed out of metal.
6. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the improved universal fork is constructed out of plastic.
7. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the improved universal fork is constructed out of resin.

- 15 8. (once modified)

An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, having

- a. a handle shaft, having a back end that enlarges in diameter and circumference along its length toward the back end, where said handle shaft also has a front end that is joined on its front portion
20 to a fork head;

b. in which the fork head comprises inner tines and outer tines, and where the inner tines have angled sharpened ends, with the end portions of the inner tines having a decreased circumference, so that the tips will break off when a shearing stress is applied to them;

c. a finger platform, on each side of the handle, comprising a deformation of the handle shaft at the point along the length of the handle prior to the defined fork head, [where the handle is joined to the fork head,] where said finger platform defines an enlarged flat side surface against which a person's forefinger is able to press against.

9. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the outer tines define an unsharpened dull edge.

10. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the outer tines define a blade edge.

11. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the outer tines define a serrated edge.

12. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which one of the outer tines define a serrated edge, and the other outer tine defines a sharpened blade edge.

13. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which one of the outer tines define a dull edge, and the other outer tine defines a sharpened blade edge.
14. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which one of the outer tines define a dull edge, and the other outer tine defines a sharpened blade edge.
15. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which both of the outer tines define a serrated edge.
16. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which both of the outer tines define a dull edge.
17. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which both of the outer tines define a sharpened blade edge.
18. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the outer tine defines an outer edge that has a portion of the edge defined as a serrated edge.